

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Mothers Day

March 2020



This Month:

Love not Hate; Open Day is here; A bird in
the hand; A Candle in the Wind.

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.

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Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Deputy churchwardens: Gary Mortimer

Pernoe Liburd

Verger: Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

Organists: Samantha Marks/Dan Marks

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer Barbara Tate

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Parish Centre Hire: Sally Shaw 01924 475048

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Health & Safety Officer Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

Data Protection Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

and Legacy Officer

Magazine Editor & David Townsend 0113 2528710

Weekly News Sheet: Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org

Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

Mobile: 07745 301746

Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

Deanery Synod reps: Brian Gledhill & Gary Mortimer

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Brian Gledhill, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield,

Laura Mortimer, Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, Pernoe Liburd,
Elizabeth Wilkinson.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 60p really helps to keep it going!

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Care and Share

**If you have recently lost a loved one then come
and share lunch together on the following dates:**

11th September

25th September

12noon until 2.00pm

St Mary's Church

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Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café
is for those in need of support, especially
those affected by dementia, their families and carers.

If you or someone you care for is suffering memory problems, have been diagnosed with dementia or are just feeling lonely and fed up please come and join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, In calm and beautiful surroundings you can meet others who face similar challenges, share experiences and find out about the support available.

Refreshments are served and there is no charge.

Please join us for tea, coffee and cake, a chat and a laugh. Meet both new and old friends and reminisce.



Forget me not
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St Mary's Church, Woodkirk
Dewsbury Road
Tingley
WF12 7JL

For more information please contact Jane on 07969 640396 or visit our Facebook page Forget Me Not Friends Café Tingley.

Meeting Dates for 2019

March	Wednesday 6 th & Wednesday 20 th
April	Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 17 th
May	Wednesday 1 st & Wednesday 15 th
June	Wednesday 5 th & Wednesday 19 th
July	Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 17 th
August	Wednesday 7 th & Wednesday 21 st

September	Wednesday 4 th & Wednesday 18 th
October	Wednesday 2 nd & Wednesday 16 th
November	Wednesday 6 th & Wednesday 20 th
December	Wednesday 4 th & Wednesday 18 th

Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers. Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £12 a year to cover magazine costs including post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the web site from the middle of the month of publication.

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the church and Dewsbury Road. Just ask.

Is it better to be Inspired or be Inspirational?

Vicar's Letter

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun! Following the busyness of Christmas and the endless spending, many of us will have had a frugal January as we once again catch up with ourselves. January tends to be a little quieter as the kids go back to school and we all return to work. By now of course, we will have had the first school break of the year, and as the kids return to school many parents will breathe yet another sigh of relief.

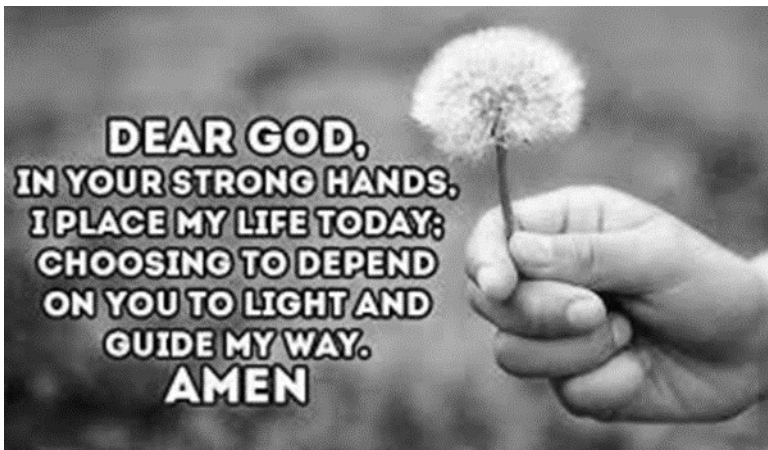
It is no different with your local church following a quieter January we are now into a new season of events. Lent has come quickly upon us. We have eaten our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and we began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday.

On Sunday 8th March, the men of the church are cooking a Sunday lunch, to be held in the church hall. Two courses for only £6.00. Anyone is welcome to buy a ticket – it is about building up relationships with our community – so if you don't come to church but want to come and have lunch, please book a place through myself or the church wardens (numbers are at the front of this magazine). We would be happy to see you.

On Saturday 14th March we have our Church and Church Yard Open Day. There will be displays in church with some focus this year on the church windows of which there will be a tour. Our Verger, Gail will be available to look up your loved ones from years gone by and I am hoping Morley Family History Society will be there. This is usually a very enjoyable day for both church members and the community and we very much look forward to see those who have attended regularly. There is no entry charge to come and look around but there will be a barbeque and cakes and drinks for sale.

During Lent it is important we make some time to reflect on our relationship with God and with each other. We often find it hard to prioritise time on ourselves, and to really focus on the relationships we have around us. As human beings we rarely get things right, we always think we know best, and it is hard for us to admit that we need others or that we need a Creator God to guide us. Lent is a time when we can let our guard down and have those conversations in stillness and in quietness, alone or with others, it doesn't matter as long as we have them.

Sharon
Vicar



Let your light shine

The Children's Society - Christingles

Hello there

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all those who donated to our Christingle Appeals over Christmas.

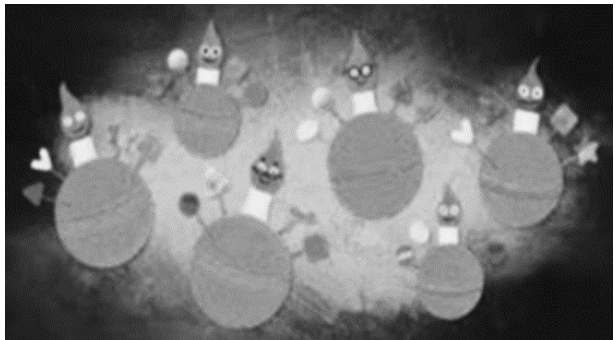
The collections from our two Christingle services held on Christmas Eve as well as the generosity of those who collected using a candle money box meant that we were able to send an amazing £442 to the Children's Society.

A special thank you to the Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs who sent their candles in, and of course very special thanks to the excellent team of volunteers who came into church on the 23rd December to make over 300 Christingles. It all went to make the services such a success.

I'm sure Christmas feels a long time ago now, but be reassured that the money we raised will be helping disadvantaged young people throughout the country, throughout the year.

Thank you all so much.

Dawn



Sometimes we do the things we hate.

Sometimes we do things – over and over and over?

And sometimes we get confused and begin to hate ourselves for the things we've done.

There is a world of difference between 'walking in the light' while confessing our sins (1 John 1:7-10), and letting our sins define our identity. While it is appropriate to mourn our sin (Matt 5:4), it is not appropriate to hate ourselves.

In the heat of the moment of regret and shame, we can almost think that self-loathing is good and right and biblical (after all, we have offended a Holy God and become unclean!). But in truth, God never calls us to hate ourselves. The truth is that God loves us (John 3:16, 1 John 4:10). And the only one who loves our self-loathing is Satan.

It is good to remember that when we loathe ourselves, we loathe someone created in the image of God. Proverbs 17:5 says, 'Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker.' James writes that the tongue 'is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so' (James 3:8-10).

What we say about people, we say about God. This is true whether we are demeaning other humans or our self. Even inward self-loathing insults our Maker, in whose image we were created. Even in the middle of theological controversy, you can almost hear the joy in Paul's voice when he reminds himself of the gospel:

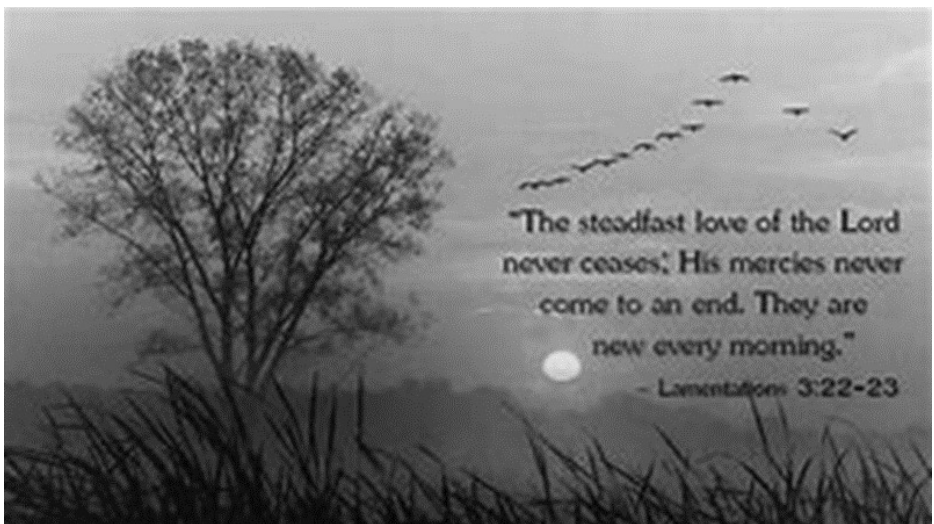
'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Galatians 2:20). If we forget that the heart of the gospel is 'the Son of God loved me and gave himself for me' only to remember that we are worthy of being hated rather than loved, we will lose the joy of the gospel itself. Because of self-loathing we diminish the work of grace that God has done in our life

Making ourselves an object of contempt makes more of the sin that once defined me than the grace of God which has re-created me. Paul writes of sinners who are defined by their sin outside of grace, and then adds: 'And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God' (1 Corinthians 6:11).

What I was once, I am not now. My sins do not define me; my reconciliation with God does. Hating myself makes little of that and gives Satan joy.

The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me.

Gail



GEORGE & JEMIMA. Wet Behind The Ears

Both pop up.

Jemima. Hey George what's happening?

George. Nowt really Jemima, just a normal boring day sat on this wall getting an achy bum.

Jemima. Yeh, I know what you mean George, I'm a little bored myself.

George. So what we gonna do then?

Jemima. I know!

George. What?

Jemima. We can play at Baptism.

George. Uhhhh?

Jemima. Ya don't know what Baptism is do you George?

George. I so do.

Jemima. Ok, go on then, what is it?

George. It's where Jesus and his cousin John the Baptiserer were magicians and Jesus pulled a dove out of John's beard and it flew up and landed on Jesus' shoulder.

Jemima. You weren't paying complete attention in Sunday School again were you George?

George. I was too.

Jemima. Well it's John the Baptist not John The Baptiserer.

George. Yeh, yeh Ok.

Jemima. Right then George, lets prepare for our baptisms.

George. Ok, lets go.

Jemima. So George, if you were getting baptised, how would you prepare?

George. Well for starters I'd wear my new swimming trunks and I'd get my new supa dupa unda water goggles, my sunscreen and my ultra absorbent towel.

Jemima. Blimey George, it sounds more like you're going to the beach than getting baptised, I'm surprised you didn't include a

surfboard.

George. Don't be daft I can't carry a surfboard. My Mum will bring that in the car later.

Jemima. Ok George, lets get back on track. Where do you think we should get baptised?

George. I know, round at the Brown's house.

Jemima. Why at the Brown's house?

George. Cause they've got a cracking hot tub on their back patio, it would be fantabidosy.

Jemima. I still don't think you get it George, I mean, tell me why you should be baptised?

George. There's lots of reasons. First it sounds so cool. Baptiserered. Second, it's a fairly hot day and I'd like to cool down. And three, I want to make sure I'm going to heaven when I die.

Jemima. Those are the worst reasons I have ever heard for getting baptised.

George. Oh hang on, I forgot one. I want to try out my new rubber ducky.

Jemima. Ya know George, ya get dafter by the minute. Come on then, why don't I pretend to baptise you?

George. Ya can't, we don't have any water.

Jemima. I've got a can of Pepsi!

George. Ya can't baptiser me with Pepsi.

Jemima. Why not?

George. Cause ya know I prefer Coke.

Jemima. I'll tell you what George, we'll use my favourite pop.

George. What's that then?

Jemima. Tizer!

George. Yeh, that would be good, then I could say I have really been Baptizered, ha ha!

Jemima. You're priceless George.

George. We're really supposed to use water though aren't we Jemima?

Jemima. Yes of course we are George. Let's face it, we use water for

lots of things. One of the most important ways we use water is for washing things that are dirty, so we have showers and baths to wash our bodies and make them clean again. We wash up our plates in a bowl of water after a meal to make them clean again and we wash our clothes in a washing machine to make them clean again.

George. But I don't do any of that stuff Jemima.

Jemima. Does that mean you're dirty then George?

George. No, it means I'm lazy, cause my Mum does all that stuff.

Jemima. Ok George let me tell you a story about Jesus and John the Baptist.

George. John the Baptizerer.

Jemima. Ok George, whatever. A long time ago a man called John the Baptizerer.

George. I thought you said it was Baptist?

Jemima. See, you've got me at it now.

George. Sorry go on.

Jemima. Now John told the people in Israel that the wrong things they were doing in their lives had to stop. They couldn't possibly have a relationship with God while they were choosing to disobey him. It was like the wrong things they were doing were making them dirty on the inside.

George. Make em gargle with Tizer.

Jemima. Shut up George. John told the people that they needed to turn back to God, say sorry and change their Lives, and then they could be part of his family. As a sign that they had turned back to God, John told the people to be baptised. You see, the water used in baptism is a symbol, it reminds people that God can wash us clean on the inside and give us a new start.

George. My Mum went to be cleaned on the inside, it wasn't called baptizing though.

Jemima. What was it then?

George. Colonic irritation or something. She had to stop going though due to the hosepipe ban.

Jemima. Can we please get back to the story?!!

George. Yeh, sure, go on.

Jemima. Now can you imagine John the Baptists' surprise when one day Jesus came to him to be baptised? Jesus had never done anything wrong in his life. He was completely clean on theinside and Jesus already had a close relationship with God, surely he didn't need to be baptised? Jesus insisted that he was to be baptised because he knew that God wanted him to do it. So John baptised Jesus. When Jesus came out of the water something wonderful happened.

George. They ran out of Tizer?

Jemima. Quiet George!! At that moment the Heavens opened and Jesus saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him and a voice from Heaven said "This is my son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.

George. Wow, wasn't that amazing?

Jemima. You see George, if people want to have a relationship with God, like Jesus did, they need to turn away from doing wrong things and turn to Jesus. As a sign of that change of heart they are baptised.

George. So the dove didn't come from John the Baptizerer's beard then?

Jemima. Say goodbye George.

Both. Goodbye everybody, see you again soon.

Brian



Hansel & Gretel and the Black Canons of St. Mary's?

The well-known German fairy tale recorded by the Brothers Grimm and published in 1812, is about a young brother and sister kidnapped by a cannibalistic witch living in a forest, in a house constructed of gingerbread, cake, confection, candy, and many other treats. The two children escape with their lives by outwitting her.

The story's origins have been traced back to the Great Famine that started in 1315 and killed millions across Europe. But in the 500-year gap between the Famine and Grimm's fairy tale how was the original story recorded – and by who?

In the spring of 1315, unusually heavy rain began in much of Europe. Throughout the spring and the summer, it continued to rain, and the temperature remained cool. Under such conditions, grain could not ripen, leading to widespread crop failures. The straw and hay for the animals could not be cured, so there was no fodder for the livestock. Conditions were so dire and starvation was so widespread that parents were known to abandon their own children, either to fend for themselves or simply to die. There were also rumours of cannibalism during the period as people struggled to survive. As such, when Hansel & Gretel first circulated, there was nothing particularly fantastical about a story of "terribly hungry" disowned children nearly being eaten by a frightening stranger.

A number of documented incidents show the extent of the famine. Edward II of England stopped at St Albans on 10 August 1315 and had difficulty finding bread for himself and his entourage; it was a rare occasion in which the King of England was unable to eat.

By the time the final Grimm edition emerged in 1857, the idea of parents leaving their own children alone in the woods had simply become too taboo to retain—even in a tale that featured attempted cannibalism. As such, all subsequent editions transformed Hansel and Gretel's coldly practical mother into an overtly abusive stepmother. And their father—already unsure of abandoning his kids in the

original story—was presented in a more sympathetic light, thanks to added lines of dialogue, including, early on: "I do feel sorry for the poor children."

Through the decades as we've continued to tell the story, small but key details like these have changed to reflect shifting cultural sensibilities. In the composer Engelbert Humperdinck's 1893 opera 'Hänsel und Gretel', for example, the children's mother was still present and still cold (threatening the kids for not doing their chores and such) but she only sent them into the forest to pick strawberries. That's quite the leap away from escorting them there to die.

As long as the dark 700-year-old story of *Hansel & Gretel* keeps being reinvented, it will always reflect the times. But who were its original authors – long before the brothers Grimm heard the fairy-tale and wrote it down for posterity?

In the mid-fourteenth century - this time of hunger and famine, a 'World of Plenty' was invented – the Land of Cockayne - an imaginary place of extreme luxury and ease where physical comforts and pleasures are always immediately at hand and where the harshness of medieval peasant life did not exist. Specifically, in poems like 'The Land of Cockaigne', it is a land of contraries, where all the restrictions of society are defied (Abbots beaten by their monks), sexual liberty is open (naked Nuns are mentioned), and food is plentiful (skies that rain cheese). Writing about Cockaigne was commonplace in 'Goliard' verse.

The Goliards were a group of clergy, generally young, in Europe who wrote satirical Latin poetry in the 12th and 13th centuries of the Middle Ages. They were chiefly clerics who served or had studied at the universities of France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and England, who protested the growing contradictions within the church through song, poetry and performance. Disaffected and rebellious, they often presented such protests within a structured setting associated with carnival, such as the Feast of Fools, or even perhaps a Fair where satirical performances were commonplace? The monks were some of the very few who were literate at that time, they were also mobile - travelling across Europe bringing news, information and stories as they went.

So perhaps the original story of Hansel and Gretel was conceived at a small monastic outpost where monks, who did not reflect all the most noble traits of the profession, were sent to be 'out of sight' of the Abbott and where their less than perfect influence would not be passed amongst the more committed monks of the day. As the Black Canons of St. Mary's are credited with writing some of the 'Mystery Plays' – is it too much of a leap to imagine that they were also the 'Goliards' who wrote the original 'Hansel and Gretel' fairy-tale?

David



Taught a lesson by a Pigeon!

Hi there

You may remember in the last magazine that I had been inspired for my prayerful thought by cutting my finger! Well happily this time I managed not to do that, but instead was inspired, well pulled up short really, by a pigeon.

One day I was busy in the kitchen but happened to look out of the window and noticed that a pigeon was sitting on the roof of the car in the garage (we had left the garage door open).
I called up to my husband and asked him to come and help me.

Now I must confess my first thought was “Oh blimey, I really don’t want this pigeon to poo on the car”, but then as I was thinking about how to get him to come out of the garage, I thought I can’t just go and shout at him or flap at him, or tell him to ‘shoo’ as he might flutter towards the back of the garage where we have a tumble dryer, a freezer, our bins etc and I was worried that if he flew further in the poor thing would get really stuck and we’d not be able to get him out at all.

Anyway, I decided to try and get down the far side without making him flap, and was struggling to get through, meanwhile, my husband had approached the car, walked more or less past the pigeon, who hadn’t flapped anywhere, and then started to wave his arms and shoo the pigeon back outside, where he promptly hopped away from the garage and calmly away from where we were stood.
It was some time later when three things struck me...

Firstly, as the weather was a bit dreadful with strong winds etc, the poor bird had probably just landed there for a bit of a rest
Secondly, if I’d appeared at the door with some bread or seeds of some sort he’s probably have come out on his own to have the food, and....

Thirdly, it made me think about how glad I am that our God is a forgiving God.

Well I'm sure you're all sat there and thinking why on earth has Dawn changed from talking about pigeons, to talking about God's forgiveness, well, I'll tell you.

You see, the way I treated that pigeon, made me think about the passage in Matthews Gospel in Chapter 25 when he is talking about the final judgement.

At the start of chapter 25 we read about where Jesus was telling the parable of the ten young women, five who prepare ahead and five who fail to do so, and he ends the passage with "Watch out, then, because you do not know the day or the hour when the Lord is coming".

The chapter moves on then to the parable of the three servants where two servants invest what their master gives them whilst he is away, but the third servant does not and whilst the first two are rewarded, the third is banished.

Then we get to the final judgement when "...the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats".

The passage goes on to talk about how the righteous will be separated and the king will welcome them because of what they did for others, even though they didn't recognise when they had done something worthy.

However, for those who did not help, they will be cast away, even though they hadn't recognised when they hadn't done something worthy.

So back to me and my poor pigeon, I suddenly thought, about when Jesus explained that “...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!” I had failed, I did not offer shelter or food to that pigeon, like the ten young women, we do not know the hour when Jesus will come, just think if he’d come then when I was just wanting to get the bird out of my garage!

This then, of course, brings me back to the point about why I am glad that God forgives us, because if he only took into account my treatment of that little pigeon, then I’m well on my way to being “cast out, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!”

We are so so lucky that God gives us His grace, free of charge, because I’m sure we can all think of occasions when we have not been as helpful or kind as we could have been. We’ve said or done something and afterwards thought about it and realised we could have handled it much better.

I have learned from my experience. However good (or bad) we believe or think we are, if we ask God to forgive us and deal with that situation differently next time, then when He comes, He will find us changed, He will find us being kind.

If God did send my little feathered visitor that day, I’m sure He’s having a smile to himself about me writing about it to you. God knows that the next time I see a pigeon in my garage I’ll reach for some seeds or a piece of bread to encourage him to come out rather than getting nearly stuck in my garage by trying to get behind him and shooing him out!

Perhaps this has made you think of an occasion where you might not have responded to a situation with as much kindness as you should have done? Don’t fear, God’s grace is big enough for all of us, all we have to do is ask.

With love and feathers!

Dawn.

Real Easter Egg and Mothers' Union *with £3 off ...*

The Real Easter Egg is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year but did you know that Mothers' Union members in this diocese played a big part in its success?

Back in 2010 the supermarkets turned down the idea of the UK's first religious egg with the story of Easter in the box so The Meaningful Chocolate Company asked Mothers' Union members and their churches to crowd fund the idea by placing orders.

David Marshall, from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, says;
"I had never been to a Christian Resources Exhibition.

It was a real eye opener; hundreds of stalls offering resources, thousands of church members looking for ideas and inspiration. CRE was the ideal place to bring the Real Easter Egg. People wanted to taste the chocolate, hold the boxes and meet us, something you can't do online!"

Ten years on more than a million Real Easter eggs have been sold, most sent through the post, and more than £275,000 donated to charitable projects.

For Easter 2020, there are five types of Real Easter Eggs available all with new content.

Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. To help celebrate a special Mothers' Union discount code has been made available. If you buy 2 or more cases (12 eggs) of original eggs and enter the code MU2010 you will get £3 off your order total. Visit

www.realeasteregg.co.uk



Is it fair? Yes of course it is!

Fair Trade Coffee Morning

Hi there



Another huge thank you to you all for supporting our recent Fair Trade Coffee Morning. Thankfully, although it was a breezy day, it was mainly fine and we were truly blessed with a varied group of people from both our church family and our community, who came and enjoyed Tea or Coffee and Cake and were able to buy some fair trade goodies.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade supports small scale farmers and workers who are marginalised from trade in a variety of ways. With your help we sold over £120 of Fair Trade Goods (mostly chocolate but hey it's all good!) which all helps to raise awareness.

In addition, with the proceeds from the sale of refreshments, cake and a raffle, we are sending £130 to Water Aid. WaterAid is an international non-governmental organisation, focused on water, sanitation and hygiene. Since it was formed in 1981 it has helped over 27 million people have access to clean water and continues to install taps and toilets in some of the poorest places in the world.

Once again, thank you.

Dawn

We Can Worship God Even When We Don't Understand

I have just finished a book about Florence Chadwick, the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel. She decided in 1952 that she wanted to swim from Catalina Island to the California coast, about 26 miles. No woman had ever done that before.

It was very foggy when she started her swim, and she couldn't see. After 15 hours in the water, she looked up at her mother in the little boat beside her and said,

"Mama, I can't make it; I can't go any further."

Her mother tried to encourage her, but, after swimming for another 55 minutes, she gave up and got in the boat. A couple minutes later, she discovered she was half a mile from the coastline.

When asked later why she quit, Chadwick said, "It was because I couldn't see anything. If I could've just *seen* the coastline, I know I would have made it."

Two months later, she got back in the water, and not only did she swim from Catalina Island to California, but she also beat the women's world record for that distance.... and the men's.... by two and a half hours

Interestingly, the second time she swam, it was even foggier than the first time. She couldn't see anything. When reporters asked her about it afterward, she said, "I was ready this time. And it's really simple: I kept a picture in my mind of the shoreline. Even though I couldn't see it with my eyes, it was ever before me. I never lost sight of the California shoreline, and so I felt like I was always closing in on it. As long as I lived for the picture in my mind, I could keep slogging through the fog of my challenge."

I think we can learn though this maybe we need this kind of vision when we have unanswered questions about things that don't add up. As a Christian we can tell people what the Bible says, but sometimes my heart is not always at peace with it. And there are times I have sat with someone in pain and think, "God, if you love this person, why would you let this happen?"

But I see revealed in the gospels the evidence of God's goodness. and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed

unto him against that day.” And I know that, just like he came out of the tomb when everyone thought he was gone, one day he’s going to return and make all the sad things come untrue.

How do we feel about Worship is it about how we are feeling? Or is It about who God is?

Why do we feel that when things are going well in our lives God loves us, but when things are not so good, we feel he has deserted us?

If things are going well, then God must love us. But we are always going to misinterpret things if we do that. God’s ways are untraceable. But his character, revealed in Christ, is undoubtable.

We don’t know all that God is doing in every situation, and neither will we. But I know that what he is doing is bathed in love because that’s who he is.

I know that just as God used Jesus’ death for good and brought resurrection out of it, so will he do with this situation. Where I can’t trace his hand, I can trust his heart.

And one day, like Paul, we’ll say,

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” – Romans 11:33–36

As long as you can keep living for the picture of future glory in your mind, you can keep slogging through in the fog of your challenge and continue to worship Him.

The shore in your mind should be Jesus. He is everything you’ve ever needed. In everything you’ve felt insufficient, he’s been your overflowing supply.

For all the ways you are not, he is the great I AM. And because of this, you can worship.

Gail

Feathered Friends—RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Well this month I seem to have a bit of a feathery theme going on.

Elsewhere in the magazine you may have read about my close encounter with a pigeon, well now I want to tell you about when Dave Townsend and I undertook the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. (Thomas and Neal would have helped too, but sadly on the day they should have done their watch the weather was dreadful (storm Ciara I think) – hopefully next year Thomas).

Anyway, Dave on the Saturday and I on the Monday, sat in the churchyard with pencils poised over lovely colourful bird charts to record the many birds that landed in the churchyard during a given hour.

Well I don't know if you remember an old Kit Kat advert The one where a chap was all set trying to photograph pandas, they never appeared until he sat down with his back to them to have his cuppa and kit kat when they came out and completed an excellent roller skating display.

If you have access to youtube, do look it up.

Any way I think Dave and I felt the same way when undertaking our birdwatch.

We could hear lots of birds, but only a very few of them landed, we both saw robins and pigeons but only a few, but you never know, next year...

We decided to undertake the RSPB birdwatch as part of our work on environmental issues. Surveying what wildlife visits or lives in the



churchyard is a good way to measure how we are doing in environmental terms. As part of our work in church, churchyard and community, we also recognise we are stewards of God's planet as well.

We have formed an Environment Group so we can look at environmental aspects within the life of the church; this is closely linked to the ongoing and excellent work of the Churchyard group.

We will be asking the PCC (Church Council) to adopt an Environmental Policy and we are looking at an action plan for things we may be able to do that will help us reduce our environmental impact on God's world.

As a group we are also hoping to provide articles for future magazines letting you know what we are doing but also in ways in which you may be able to help, by reducing your own personal or family impact on the environment.

I'm sure many of you have already made changes to the way you live to reduce your impact, for example reducing waste, reusing things and recycling, you have recognised that we all are at a crossroads for the future of the planet.

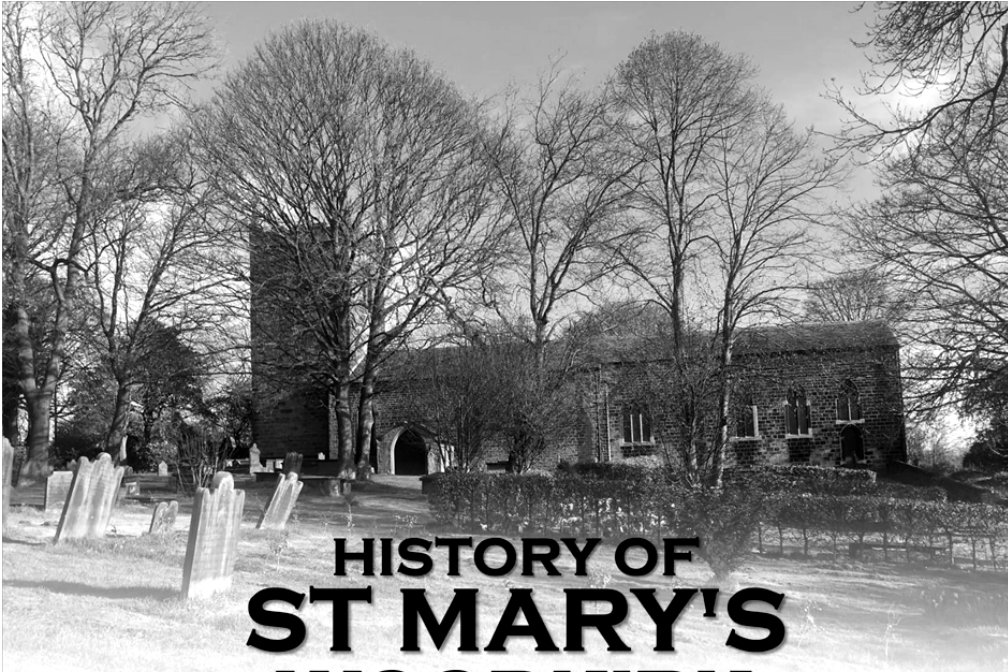
Watch out for our further articles on what we are doing/hope to do, or how you can help. Never underestimate how the smallest changes done by many people can have a big impact.

Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Love and Pandas!

Dawn



HISTORY OF ST MARY'S WOODKIRK OPEN DAY

**Saturday 14th March
10am—2 pm**

**CAKES AND BAKES
BBQ**

FREE ENTRY- ALL WELCOME!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT REV. SHARON:

• ☎ 01924 472375 • ✉ VICAR@STMARYWOODKIRK.ORG • [HTTPS://WWW.STMARYWOODKIRK.ORG](https://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)

Poetry Corner

Lines Written in Early Spring

By William Wordsworth

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

Churchyard News

An Eco-church—what's that?

In another part of this magazine Dawn reported on a Birdwatch survey we carried out in the churchyard (p29). In fact, given that we have an 11 acre churchyard there were disappointingly few birds around—a couple of robins and two coal tits was about it. I often see more birds from my own kitchen window than I did in the much wider expanse of churchyard.

At home, however, I have hung a bird feeder in the cherry tree in our front garden. There are sparrows (by the bucketful), blue tits, chaffinch and green finch as well as plucky pigeons hoping for a dropped seed or nut. When the cherries ripen in autumn, the blackbirds come to feast, clearing the whole tree in a few frenzied days.

This is the clue to the problem. Food. There is precious little in the churchyard and so the birds are not drawn to the area. As well as birdwatching Dawn has also been very busy working on an 'Eco-church' project which looks at the overall impact of the church and churchyard on the environment. This is promoted by the Diocese through their recent 'Environmental Policy'.

What are we doing to save energy, reduce waste and to promote greener, healthier more environmentally friendly churchyards? This is a wide ranging topic but one thing we know helps the environment is planting trees. If the trees we choose to plant are also fruit trees we not only help to clean up the air but also encourage birds and other wildlife into the churchyard. Another way to help is by sowing wildflowers—encouraging butterflies and bees and improving biodiversity.

So these topics are high on our 'to do' list to make our churchyard not only peaceful and restful but also a much greener, healthier place. So watch this space for more details.

David


Stepping Stones - Children's Group

Enjoy a wide range of fun and creative bible-based activities on
the fourth Sunday every month.

at 10.30am for ages 3-12

More information contact:

Lizzy Wilkinson at: lizzy@stmarywoodkirk.org




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per session
/per family



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Church Mouse Tales

One fine morning I went looking for my friend Hubert, the Black Canon. Not that it was a long or difficult search, since he was a creature of habit (?) he would, I was certain, be sitting in his favourite spot on the back quire pew near to the Monk's door.

Indeed, there he was. I hopped up and announced myself.

'Good heavens Misha!' he cried out, 'do you have to disturb my meditations in quite a such an uncouth manner?'

'Oh er sorry', I said sincerely, 'but I have a question to ask?'

'A question?'

'Yes', I paused for a second. 'What's a Goliard?'

Hubert's eyes widened.

'Sssshhh!', he said with his finger pressed over his lips. 'Don't say that word loudly!'

'Er – why ever not?' I whispered quietly. 'It's not blasphemous is it?'

'No, no – but you mustn't let the Abbott hear you say it.'

'The Abbott? I don't think I've ever seen the....'

'He would be very angry', cut in Hubert, still speaking in hushed tones.

'Why what does Gol... I mean 'it' mean?'

'Ssshh!' said Hubert. He glanced around to see if there was anyone present.

'Undesirable monks!' he whispered. I opened my mouth to ask another question.

'Sssshh!' he insisted. 'The Abbott hates them. We – I mean they - are mischievous and write about things an Abbott does not want to hear.'

'Like what?' I whispered, though not entirely sure why.

'Frivolity!' exclaimed Hubert loudly.

'Sssshhh!' I said helpfully. Hubert resumed his whispered tone.

'The Abbott can't abide frivolity and banishes those monks who speak it, write it – or even think it - to small outposts, well away from the Priory.'

'Like here?' I asked.

'Well er, that is to say...of course not!' denied Hubert somewhat unconvincingly.

'Don't worry', I consoled, 'your secret is safe with me. I won't tell anyone of your frivolous goliardery...'

'Sssssshhhhhh!' said Hubert.

Misha x.

Albert's 'March' Quiz

1. Which Patron Saint's Day is celebrated on March 1st?
2. Of which country is he Patron Saint?
3. Which event is celebrated on March 8th in respect of gender equality?
4. Which English boxer became World Middleweight Champion in March 1980?
5. On March 9th the Queen addresses many nations and a multi-faith service is held in Westminster Abbey to celebrate what event?
6. Who was the American sprinter and long jump star of the 1936 Olympics who died in March 1980?
7. In March 1983, which 1981 Derby winning horse was kidnapped?
8. Which Patron Saints day is celebrated on March 17th?
9. Of which country is he Patron Saint?
10. In 1987 which swimmer first broke the 1 minute barrier for 100 metres backstroke?
11. In the same year, who was the first batsman to reach 10,000 runs in test cricket?
12. What occurs traditionally on the 4th Sunday in Lent, 3 weeks before Easter?
13. What begins on the 29th March?
14. Which 1956 film featured the song 'March of the Siamese Children'?
15. In which book does the March Hare appear?
16. When was Julius Caesar assassinated?
17. What is the birthstone of the month of March?
18. Which other month of the year ends on the same day as March?
19. Which fizzy drink was introduced on 29th March 1886?
20. On 10th March 1876 who made the world's first telephone call?

Answers on P39

Albert

Reflections on The Candle

In the January/February issue of the Church Magazine, Dawn refers in her 'Advent Journey Weekly Reflections,' to a candle, and how by lighting one the difference it makes in a dark room.

Genesis Ch. 1 Tells us that, in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void.

And darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.

Saint Matthew said, You are the light of the World.

A city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand.

Two sources of light, the sun, that glorious luminary of nature which rising in the East, regularly diffuses light and lustre to all in its circle. And the candle that inoffensive candle which is ever present in our Churches. Not many weeks ago our Church was beautifully lit by hundreds of candles. Both at the Christingle services and the service of carols. Can you imagine how our Church would have looked without those simple, inoffensive, all important candles. -

A candle's but a little thing, It starts with just a bit of string,
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand It gathers wax upon the strand,

Until complete and snowy white It gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that piece of string, Each deed we do a simple thing,
Yet day by day upon life's strand We work with patient heart and hand.

It gathers joy, makes dark days bright, And gives at last a lovely light.
The candle, which consumes itself to give light, like us, eventually dies.
How like a candle is the life of man, The burning taper's emblem of his span,
Both, in life's morn, with lustre gay to shine, And, in life's darkling twilight, both decline.
How soon the light doth flicker and decay, And man's brief days, how fast they fleet away.
Their lives the same - both have a pointed span, How like a candle is the life of man.

Trevor Sykes

A Valentine from God to you!

Is a rich soul worth more than a poor soul, is a stranger worth less than a friend? Is a baby worth more than an elder - is your beginning worth more than your end?

Is a president worth more than his assassin, does your value decrease with your crime? Like when Christ took the place of Barabbas, would you say he was wasting his time?

Well how much do you think you are worth, will anyone stand up and say? Would you say, that a soul is worth nothing, until someone is willing to pay?

I suppose that you think that you matter, well how much do you matter to whom? It's much easier at night - with friends and bright lights, than much later alone in your room.

Do you think they'll miss one in a billion, when you've finished this old human race, does it really make much of a difference, when your friends have forgotten your face? -

If you heard that your life had been valued, and a price had been paid on the nail, would you ask what was traded and how much - who paid it and what was his name?

If you heard that his name was called Jesus, would you say that the price was too dear?

Held to the cross, not by nails, but by love - you broke his heart, not the spear.

Would you say you're worth what it cost him? You say "No!" but the price stays the same.

If it don't make you cry, laugh it off, pass him by, but remember that day when you threw it away, that he paid what he thought you were worth.

How much do you think he is worth, will anyone stand up and say? Tell me what are you willing to give him, in return for the price that he paid?

Alice

Guess Who?

See if you can guess who it is in the picture below?

A regular church goer—she's never late for an important date...



Answer next month.

Quiz Answers:-

1. St.David 2. Wales 3.International Women's Day 4.Alan Minter
5. Commonwealth Day 6. Jesse Owens 7. Shergar 8. St. Patrick
9. Ireland 10. Adrian Moorhouse 11. Sunil Gavaskar 12. Mother-
ing Sunday 13. British Summertime 14. The King and I 15. Alice's
Adventures in Wonderland 16. The Ides of March 17. Aquama-
rine 18. June 19. Coca-Cola 20. Alexander Graham Bell Albert
Shaw

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-

Evie Rose Burns



DEATHS



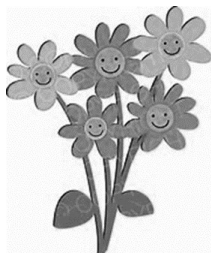
We give thanks for the lives of all those who have died within our Parish:

Barry Church; Stuart Goldthorpe
Harry Thompson; Loi Kui Lee;
Gloria Smith

WEDDINGS Please pray for all couples who married at St Mary's, especially:



FLOWER DONATIONS.



Jan 5th Margaret Longdon
- In memory of her Mum & Dad.

Feb 2nd Sharon Wilkinson
- In memory of her Mum.

Feb 9th Janet Mallinson
- For her Wedding Anniversary.

Interim flowers provided by Averille Milburn.
There will be no flowers in church in March
(Lent) until 12th April (Easter)

Diary for the coming weeks

(Morning Prayer 9.00am Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri.)

March

- 1st Sun 10.30am Holy Communion**
- 4th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11am & 7pm Lent Course
1:00pm Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
- 6th Fri 7:30pm World Day of Prayer (Tingley Methodist)
- 7th Sat 9am Church & Churchyard clean up
- 8th Sun 10.30am All Age Holy Communion**
12:00pm Sunday Lunch in Parish Centre
- 9th Mon 7:30pm PCC
- 11th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (Iona)
11am & 7pm Lent Course
- 14th Sat 10-2pm Church Open Day
- 15th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion**
12:30pm Baptism Service
- 18th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (Healing)
11am & 7pm Lent Course
1:00pm Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
- 19th Thur 11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
- 22nd Sun 10.30am Holy Communion**
- 24th Tues 12pm Churches Together (Haigh Moor Rd)
- 25th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (God's Goodness)
11am & 7pm Lent Course
- 29th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion**

April 2020

- 1st Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11am & 7pm Lent Course
1:00pm Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
- 4th Sat 10am Easter Activity Day
- 5th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion**

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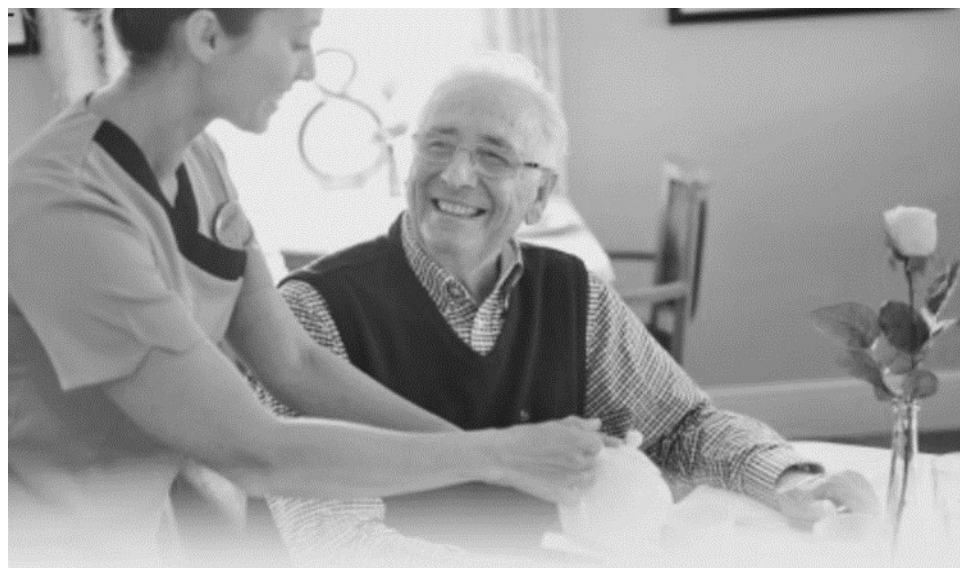
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**To book your place: [Facebook.com/evhdance](https://www.facebook.com/evhdance)
emily@humphreys.dance**

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Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...



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lydgate.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk

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idealcarehomes.co.uk

Parish Centre Rentals

We have space for Groups who may be interested in using the Parish Centre at various times of the week.

Nominal Cost is £50 for
3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw
01924 475048 for more
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What's on

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:30am to 11.25am
Becky Schofield 07811 146958

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children
Wednesday 9:15-11:00am (Term time)
Cheryl 07948271688

Stepping Stones Sunday Children's Group (3-12 years old)
4th Sunday of the Month
10:30am in Church

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm
Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Keep Fit Class Thursday 8:00pm
Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm
Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078

Beavers Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm
Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877

Cubs Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm
Marianne Ingham 07778 542302

Scouts Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927

Explorer Scouts Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm
Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age Worship with Holy Communion

A Service for all the family.

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month (4 times per year)

10:30am All Age Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

3rd Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

Morning Prayer 9.00am—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Barbara Tate on:

0113 253 1266

Baptisms held at 12.30pm on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays

To book weddings, funerals, or the reading of banns please contact our Coordinator, Gail Townsend (0113 2528710) email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org